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Near East & South Asia

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International Affairs

Daily Denounces Attack on Iraq, Urges Islamic Unity

BK2101121593 Rawalpindi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu
19 Jan 93 p 4

[Editorial: "International Terrorism—Other Islamic Countries Can Be Victimized After Iraq"]

[Text] The United States has launched cruise missile attacks to destroy Iraq's nuclear installations. While Iraq's President Saddam Husayn has said that the U.S. attacks have been a total failure, a White House spokesman claimed in Washington that a nuclear material producing plant, located 30 miles from Baghdad, was hit. They claim these attacks have been carried out in accordance with UN resolutions calling for keeping Iraq from developing nuclear, chemical, and other weapons of mass destruction. It is ironic that the plant that became the target of the U.S. missiles had already been inspected by the United Nations teams on several occasions. However, the United States—the world's only "superpower"—is not influenced by any argument, and after the disintegration of the erstwhile Soviet Union and the end of the cold war, it has imposed a new world order—an order in which the Muslim world is being particularly victimized. This is so because, currently, more blood is being shed in Bosnia, Kashmir, and Palestine than in Iraq. Even though there are a number of UN resolutions calling for a halt to the bloodletting in these states, Washington does not care at all for their implementation. The Palestinian people have remained homeless for the last half century and are becoming victims of Israeli vandalism. The Indian forces have crossed all limits in carrying out murder and plunder in Kashmir, while the Serbian forces have torn asunder the entire fabric of humanity in Bosnia. But nobody cares for them. Attempts are being made to prolong the status quo by making hollow pronouncements and expressing verbal sympathy, so that the entire Muslim race in these regions is eliminated.

It is the United States which knows better what new crime was committed by Iraq. The allied action for the liberation of Kuwait two years ago was comprehensible; but after that, the actions being taken against Iraq are nothing but proof of international vandalism. A no-fly zone has been slapped on Iraq, even though this zone lies within the territorial limits of sovereign Iraq. But the United States remains firm in its intransigence and wants to punish Iraq on one pretext or another.

Currently, the Islamic world is in a state of utter passivity and insensitivity, and the anti-Islamic forces are playing their games freely. It is high time the Islamic Conference Organization and the leaders of the Islamic community cast off their lassitude and think about safeguarding their future. Otherwise, just as Iraq is being made the target of tyranny today, U.S. missiles may be directed toward Pakistani nuclear installations

tomorrow. It is a matter of great injustice and discrimination that nobody has any objection to the nuclear programs of India, Israel, South Africa, and Mexico, but wherever Muslim countries are trying to implement their nuclear programs to augment their power, U.S. missiles and propaganda machinery spring into action against them. Even economic aid to these countries is stopped. The fact is that the Muslim community cannot face the Christian challenge without unifying and strengthening itself. It is Pakistan's duty to play the role of an Islamic fortress and call a meeting of the Islamic Conference Organization to protect Islamic countries from anti-Islamic forces. The Arab countries should also desist from dancing to the U.S. tune.

Editorial Views Importance of Nawaz Sharif Visit to Moscow

BK1701124793 Islamabad THE NEWS in English
17 Jan 93 p 7

[Editorial: "Ties With Moscow"]

[Text] According to the latest indications from official quarters Prime Ministers Nawaz Sharif's visit to Moscow is likely to take place sometime in the first half of current year. Indeed like the reappraisal of Pakistan-US relations in the changing post-Cold War global environment, our ties with Russia too need an urgent new look. The Russian federation remains a country of great importance with considerable economic potential. Notwithstanding the demise of the Soviet Union of which it was the largest component, it will continue to play a significant role in international relations as a permanent member of the UN Security Council. It is also bound to recover in the not too distant future from its recent setback and reactivate its economic ties both with the developed and the developing world.

Pakistan's multi-dimensional bilateral ties with Moscow survived substantially despite political strains that marked our relations with the former Soviet Union in the wake of the long conflict in Afghanistan and Soviet intervention there in the turbulent eighties. Russian assistance for the Karachi Steel mills—our largest industrial project which the West refused to finance—continued undisturbed even at the height of the Soviet military involvement in Afghanistan. President Ghulam Ishaq Khan who was the Finance minister in the early eighties visited Moscow then and renegotiated additional financing for the steel mill to expand its production and also explored possibility of expanded Soviet association with our development process. Trade ties too continued though there was some decline in barter trade with Moscow in recent years.

In our new pressing compulsion for a diversified aid and trade policy against the backdrop of the US aid suspension as well as harsher conditionalities attached to western assistance, there should be a comprehensive reassessment of our ties not only with Moscow but all the other countries of eastern Europe. We are not entirely

unfamiliar with such an exercise as in the sixties and the seventies too, US aid suspension for various reasons compelled as to look elsewhere for emergency assistance. Of course in a changing world, increasingly being described as unipolar, diversification may be a more complicated task requiring greater ingenuity and flexibility of approach. In any case the forthcoming visit of the Prime Minister to Moscow should be utilised for an in-depth review of Pakistan-Russian ties in order to chart a course forward for mutually beneficial economic cooperation.

Regional Affairs

Deteriorating Relations with India Viewed

93AS0527C Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 12 Jan 93 p 6

[Editorial: "Deterioration in Pakistani-Indian Relations"]

[Text] India has told Pakistan to reduce the number of its employees in its New Delhi high commission office and not to have more than 110 employees in the future. India also refused at the same time Pakistan's request that it be allowed to lease Jinnah House in Bombay for its consulate. Last month Pakistan told India to reduce the number of its employees in the Karachi consulate.

The fact is that relations between Pakistan and India have been growing steadily worse since the destruction of the Babri mosque in Ayodhya. India assassinated two Pakistanis and refused even to return their bodies. Pakistani consulate employees were mistreated. India has tried its best to provoke Pakistan. If India continues its present behavior, we do not see any need for maintaining diplomatic relations with that country.

Islamic League Campaigns on Plight of Indian Muslims

BK3101091493 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 31 Jan 93

[Text] The Motamar al-Alam al-Islami [World Muslim League] has launched a campaign to inform the international human rights organizations and the world public opinion about the plight of Indian Muslims in the wake of anti-Muslim violence by extremist Hindus and atrocities by Indian security forces. This was stated by the secretary general of the Motamar al-Alam al-Islami, Raja Zafarul Haq, at a news conference in Islamabad this morning. He said the Indian argument that violence against Muslims is an internal matter holds no more good, as India itself is a signatory to various human rights conventions. The Motamar secretary general released a report prepared by a Delhi-based medical and scientist front on the latest wave of anti-Muslim violence in India. The report clearly states that in New Delhi, the armed Indian police have been pitted against the armless Muslims.

Azad Kashmir Prime Minister on Indian Muslims, Other Issues

BK0802150793 Rawalpindi JANG in Urdu 5 Feb 93 pp 7, 8

[Text] Islamabad (JANG report)—Sardar Mohammad Abdul Qayyum Khan, the prime minister of Azad Kashmir, has said that with the realization in Gulf countries that India is against all Islamic states and its intentions are very dangerous, the relations between the Islamic countries and India have started deteriorating and will gradually show signs of further deterioration in the future. Talking informally to JANG, the Azad Kashmir prime minister said that the resolutions of the World Muslim League and the World Islamic Congress indicate that the governments of Islamic countries have become aware of India's expansionist designs. Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan said that the efforts by the World Muslim League have enhanced the chances of our success. Even if India refuses to hold talks on Kashmir, it will be considered our success. He said that persistent efforts multiply the chances of achieving positive results.

Replying to a question about the Russian-Indian alliance, the Azad Kashmir prime minister said that Russia wants to take revenge on Pakistan and the United States for the disintegration of the Soviet Union. And it is also possible that those who played an important role in causing the disintegration of the Soviet Union will strive to strengthen Russia in pursuance of their [word indistinct] animosity, thereby greatly impairing U.S. interests. [sentence as published]

In reply to a question about the increasing violence toward Muslims in India, Sardar Abdul Qayyum said that there are signs of India's rapid disintegration. He said that, given this situation, the Indian Muslims will strive for the creation of another Pakistan, instead of leaving the country. A movement in this regard is already gaining momentum in India.

Answering another question about international pressure on Pakistan to refrain from supporting Kashmiris and on issues concerning Pakistan's security, the Azad Kashmir prime minister said that "there is a cure for every ailment." One should not worry much because there is a solution for every situation. A man should only use his intelligence.

Replying to another question about U.S. opposition to President Ghulam Ishaq Khan's renomination for president in the next election in Pakistan, Sardar Abdul Qayyum said that America does not use such silly tactics. Smiling, he said that creating such an impression can also be called an attempt to get President Ghulam Ishaq Khan reelected while citing the United States. Sardar Qayyum said that the Americans do not conspire at such a level, and the situation at present is not such that they will try to get a president of their choice elected in Pakistan. When the Azad Kashmir prime minister's attention was drawn to the Bahawalpur tragedy, he said

that there was a very obvious possibility of the American CIA's involvement in General Zia-ul-Haq's plane crash.

Internal Affairs

Government Accused of Favoring the Rich

93AS0527D Lahore MUSAWAT in Urdu 6 Jan 93 p 4

[Editorial: "Differences in Policies"]

[Text] Speaking to various delegations in Larkana, Benazir Bhutto, cochairperson of the People's Party, said that 1993 would see the end of a lawless government. She accused the ruling authorities of stealing billions of rupees, of dispossessing thousands of workers, and of selling national factories to the relatives of the ruling authorities at bargain prices. She said that she is trying to retore the rights of farmers, workers, intellectuals, and the country's other deprived classes. She added that the government would not succeed in using blackmail to separate her from the people. She appealed to the people to unite against fundamentalists.

At the opening ceremony for a new women's health clinic in Naudero, Benazir Bhutto said that the government is wasting billions of rupees, but it is not providing the people with basic necessities. She said that when her government was in office it provided the young with livelihood, but the present government has taken away their jobs. Taking into account Bhutto's recent statements and the policies being pursued by the present government, one finds a clear ideological difference between the positions of the opposition and the government in regard to national welfare and progress. The People's Party and its supporting parties regard the welfare of the people and the restoration of their democratic and social rights as the most important issues facing the country. But the government is bent upon pursuing policies which strengthen certain upper classes and ruthlessly exploit the labor of the people in order to fill the pockets of the privileged classes.

In order to curb the growing inflation in the country, to end monopolies, and to strengthen the national economy, the martyred Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto nationalized large industries. During Ayub's term of office, the wealth of the country became concentrated in the hands of a few prominent families. The basic aim of Bhutto's economic policies was to give the lower classes of the country an equal share in the nation's profits, to end the dictatorship of money, and to establish [the economy] on the foundations of democracy and national wealth. Bhutto not only broke up the centralization of wealth and of cartels but passed laws to protect the professional rights of the poor and working people. The present government talks loudly of democracy, but its policies aim at keeping the upper classes well fed; that is the reason why, under the pretext of economic progress, it has sold to its friends and relatives at bargain prices the industries nationalized under Bhutto. The policy of the government has been in fact a business deal in which the upper moneyed

classes who support the government have stolen billions of rupees of the country's wealth, while the interests of the working people have been entirely ignored. The Nawaz government understands national progress to mean the greatest exploitation of the people's labor to fill the pockets of the upper classes and the enhancement of the profits of the Pakistani capitalists with the cooperation of foreign capitalists. Instead of paying attention to the welfare of the country's working people, the Nawaz government wants to make the country a cheap labor colony for foreign capitalists; hence, the Nawaz government has promised many more concessions to Japanese investors and assured them that they will be supplied cheap labor in Pakistan.

Under the present conditions, if one can indeed imagine any social and national progress, then such progress would consist of improving the wretched condition of millions of people all over the country by finding ways to increase their incomes. The people would have to be provided bread, clothing, and shelter and saved from the wretchedness of unemployment. If the Nawaz government truly wishes to accomplish these tasks, it will have to persuade the upper classes to make some sacrifices for the good of the people. The government will have to strengthen the social welfare sector as much as possible, improve the lives of the poor people employed in agriculture, and lift them out of the worn-out feudal system. The government will have to pass new and progressive laws to protect the professional rights of working people and put an end to unemployment and the high cost of living.

The economic and financial policies of the Nawaz government look to the sky rather than the earth, towards Japan, North Korea, etc., rather than toward its own country's fields. These policies bring large commissions to the country's exploitative class and provide golden opportunities for extensive financial fraud. Projects such as the construction of bullet trains or motorways will create unbearable burdens for us; they will give rise to inflation, raise the cost of living, and sell national labor cheap to foreign investors. We can say with certainty that, as the people begin to awaken, they will realize that the policies of the present government are inimical to the nation. The people will then choose the ideology and philosophy of the People's Party, which is their friend, as their guiding light and finally end the policies of looters, exploiters, enemies of the people, and dictators and bring into power the policy of the rule of the people. Instead of building the country with foreign money, the people will use their own labor; they will avoid as far as possible borrowing money from foreigners and will use the effort and labor of the nation as the basis of their progress.

New Military Chief Claimed More Sympathetic Toward MQM

93AS0529F Lahore THE NATION in English
17 Jan 93 p 14

[Article: "Situation for MQM Likely To Improve"]

[Text] Islamabad—MQM [Mohajir Qaumi Movement] Senator Ishtiaq Azhar has said that after General Abdul Wahid's appointment as the new COAS [Chief of Army Staff] the present situation for the MQM is likely to improve in Sindh as the late General Asif Nawaz "was prejudiced towards their party."

Talking to THE NATION at his residence on Saturday, he was quite blunt in his charges, saying that the late General wanted to crush the MQM because he was led to believe that MQM Chief Altaf Hussain had opposed his appointment as COAS and had supported the former COAS General Aslam Beg for an extension. "This was untrue as Altaf Hussain had warned Nawaz Sharif to keep an eye on Aslam Beg," he disclosed.

He was all praise for the new COAS, saying that General Wahid was known to be a man of integrity and his family had rendered great services in the Pakistan Movement. He expressed the hope that the spate of violence, the MQM workers were suffering for the last many months would now come to an end.

According to him Azeem Tariq had betrayed Altaf Hussain and the MQM itself. He said Altaf Hussain would return to the country when the situation was improved and might also contest elections. "We have stopped Altaf from returning to Pakistan ourselves as the time is not ripe. Everything will be all right on his return to the country," he commented optimistically.

According to Senator Ishtiaq, Altaf Hussain's announcement about quitting politics was actually the result of blackmail. But the deal that the MQM workers would be released after his retirement stood cancelled as the promises had not been fulfilled.

To him, Azeem Tariq was the real culprit. He had never been to jail nor made any effort to get the MQM workers released from jails. He had no contact with Altaf Hussain and the MQM workers did not accept him as their leaders. "For them there is only one Quaid and that is Altaf Hussain," he remarked while adding that he had contacts with the MQM workers in Karachi and Hyderabad.

He regretted that Altaf's friends could not bear hard times even for a few days and sold him out too quickly. He saluted PPP [Pakistan People's Party] workers who had endured everything for more than 11 years during the Martial Law but did not give up their support to the Bhutto family.

However, he was against the PPP for its opposing the arrival of Biharis in Pakistan. "We cannot support any party which opposes Biharis in this country," he commented while adding that Benazir Bhutto had went back on her words on this issue but Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif had fulfilled his pledge despite his separation from the MQM.

He said he had sought a meeting with President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and was also likely to meet Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to discuss the Sindh situation with him.

Sindhi Press Views New Recruitment Policies

93AS0529J Karachi DAWN in English 6 Jan 93 p 15

[Article by Anwer Pirzado: "Recruitment in Army"]

[Text] Recruitment of Sindhis in the armed forces, repatriation of Biharis from Bangladesh, the possible scenario of Sindh in the post-operation period and the moves towards forging unity among nationalist political organisations in Sindh, were some of the main subjects discussed by the Sindhi press. The newspapers also discussed the distribution of riverine areas of Indus River among the landless peasants of the area.

The new year, the Presidential address to the joint session of the Parliament, the withdrawal of the ordinance about special courts, the Government-Opposition relations, the birthday of Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah and the Christmas also attracted editorial comments from the Sindhi dailies.

Commenting on the briefing of Sindh Regimental Centre Commandant, Col Syed Shahadat Hussain about recruitment of Sindhis in army, the daily Awami Awaz, Karachi, observed editorially on Jan 1: "Commandant Col has rightly said that recruitment of Sindhis in the armed forces was essential for the cause of national security.

"However, from the inception of Pakistan, the armed forces of this country are predominated by the people from Punjab and NWFP [North-West Frontier Province]. The people from Sindh and Balochistan have quite a little representation in army.

"Besides, due to unwise policies of some governments as well as bureaucracy, promulgation of martial laws in the country, created gulf between the armed forces and the people of Sindh.

"But now when the high command of army has realised that recruitment of Sindhis in army was in the national interest, we shall suggest that the military hierarchy in Pakistan must also realise the genuine grievances of the Sindhi people and redress them at an earliest.

"As a matter of fact, the on-going operation clean-up against dacoits and terrorists in Sindh, has helped a great deal in bridging the gap between the Sindhi people and the army. However, the discrimination still continues against Sindhis in various walks of life. Therefore anomalies must be removed so that Sindhis should not consider the establishment of military cantonments in Sindh as detrimental to them."

The daily Hilal-i-Pakistan, Karachi, in its issue of Dec 30 commented: "It has been a British legacy that recruitment of army was made from a specific area... The

present moves to recruit more and more Sindhis in the Sindh Regiment was a positive sign."

"The Sindhi youth never lacks in physical or mental capability to serve the armed force of Pakistan. We shall hope that efforts to make a national army in Pakistan would continue in the interest of national integrity and solidarity."

The daily Ibrat, Hyderabad, in the issue of Dec 30 said: "It was during the colonial rule that the Sindhis were kept away from the armed forces of this region. But now the need of the hour is to accommodate Sindhis in the armed forces as much as possible so that the grievances of the past are redeemed."

"In fact, the Sindhis are as patriots as the people from other provinces. However, if they voice for their rights, it does not mean that they are against Pakistan. The role played by Sindhis in establishment of Pakistan is a vital chapter in the history of freedom movement."

"We shall therefore suggest that a vigorous campaign must be launched to recruit Sindhis in the armed forces of Pakistan."

The daily Al-Waheed, Karachi, commented on the subject thus: "The smaller provinces feel that their people are not being given high ranks as well as an equal representation in the armed forces of Pakistan. We shall suggest that removing such misunderstandings, an equal representation on population basis must be given to all smaller provinces. In doing so, the enemy propaganda would also be impeded whereas the national solidarity would be further cemented in the country."

Discussing post-operation scenario in Sindh, the daily Kawish, Hyderabad, observed on Dec 30, "The comment of a high army official is thought-provoking in which he has said that if all Patharidars are rounded up, the byelections on almost all seats except a few, would be held."

The daily Awami Awaz Karachi, in its issue of Dec 28 wrote: "The General Officer Commanding of Karachi Corps Maj. Gen. Salim Malik and the GOC Hyderabad have rightly stressed on socio-economic and political package for resolving the question of crime in Sindh."

"We feel that the Sindh government has done nothing to that effect. It has been depending solely on the army support to maintain law and order in the province. Not only this but the federal authorities also intend to induct yet another non-representative government in Sindh in case the present set-up collapses. Thus endeavours are on to seek an alternate leadership against the PPP [Pakistan People's Party]."

The daily Hilal-i-Pakistan, Karachi, in an editorial on Dec 28, opined that, "The people of the province have started believing that it is only army which can ensure peace and security in Sindh. It is perhaps because the people have no confidence in the civil administration."

And thus it is being said that the conditions in Sindh can further deteriorate after withdrawal of army.

"However, it is now inevitable that the civil administration must get ready to manage the affairs of the province because army cannot be deployed for ever."

The daily Jago, Karachi, (Dec 27) wrote: "If Azim Tariq says that I shall open my mouth, the Sindh would turn to be Beirut, then one cannot but believe that still there are sufficient arms present in Sindh to set it ablaze. In such state of affairs how can the Operation clean-up be considered successful or complete...So, it is a tragedy that Sindh still has to endure."

Mohajir Politics Seen in Disarray

93AS05291 Karachi DAWN in English 11 Jan 93 p 7

[Article by Dr. Mohammad Waseem: "Mohajir Politics in Doldrums"]

[Text] Mohajir politics was born almost 40 years after independence. It has its origins in the political attitudes of two generations of Indian migrants in Sindh. These attitudes relate to issues such as language policy, quota system for education and employment and representation at the decision-making levels.

From the mid-1980s, the MQM [Mohajir Qaumi Movement] has provided an organisational expression to these attitudes. During this time, it enjoyed a high level of visibility in the Sindh politics. However, this party emerged as a major target of the army operation in 1992. It has undergone a severe pressure from the law enforcement agencies on issues relating to the murky side of its organisational activities.

The army operation has exploded various myths established by the MQM. The predominant myth related to its power. The party has faced a dilemma since its inception: with no scope for making a government at the national or provincial level, how could it exercise pressure in pursuit of its demands? After all, the MQM represents a minority community in Sindh. There was no opportunity for it to form a government on its own and thus assume constitutional power. Unless there is power, so the logic goes, nothing concrete can come out of political action.

Under the circumstances, the MQM opted for street power. Its cadres and workers tried to create a myth of their party's power by bringing into operation their organisational strength backed by lethal weapons. That earned the party the dubious distinction of being the most militant party operating on the political scene of Pakistan. As the law and order situation gradually worsened in Sindh, partially reflecting the rising levels of inter-ethnic tensions, the MQM found a new rationale for its militant politics. It stressed its need to acquire a capacity to provide security.

But security for whom? Another myth was created that Mohajirs were very insecure at the hands of dacoits and other outlaws, and that the state had failed to provide security to them. That in turn provided logic for arming the MQM workers and terrorising the political opponents within the outside of the party. The innocent answer to questions about the use of weapons in pursuit of political objectives revolved around the perceived and projected insecurity of Mohajirs.

The myth of the MQM's power exploded in the wake of the army operation. There was absolutely no resistance from the party. There were no policy alternatives nor any guidelines for the consumption of the MQM's bewildered constituency. The issue of security for the latter was also exposed in the process. Mohajirs generally felt securer now when the MQM was rendered non-functional than previously when it was fully operational. The exploding of the myth of the party's self-portrayal as a symbol of power as well as its much-touted function of providing security to Mohajirs as a justification for assuming terrorist methods have eroded much of its public credibility, if not the vote bank.

Secondly, the army operation decimated the organisational structure of the MQM. The myth of the Mohajir unity and its expression in the form of rigid and oppressive party discipline in the MQM ranks was rendered inoperative. The disappearance of party activists from the political scene for several months dismantled the party structure. The attempt at consolidating the present divide between the two leading factions of MQM by strengthening the patronage powers of the Haqiqis through induction in government against the popular base of the other faction has further put a dent in the organisational structure of the MQM.

Finally, Altaf Hussain's exit from politics has created a leadership crisis of dire proportions. Azim Tariq has become a functional leader in the context of running the party's affairs. However, he may not be able to replace Altaf as a charismatic leader, as a symbol of Mohajirs' crusade against their perceived oppression and as a rallying ground for them to march towards their destiny. A further difficulty in the way of attaining unity among Mohajirs is the continuing presence of Altaf out there and the current tendency of accepting Azim Tariq as a proxy for him, notwithstanding claims to the contrary.

All indications are that various MQM factions continue to be normally confined to an intra-party struggle for supremacy. There is no agenda for consideration of possible changes in policy vis-a-vis the MQM's stated objectives within the context of the larger issue of intra-ethnic politics. There are no attempts to refurbish and redefine relations with other communities of Sindh. As for revelations about the MQM's alleged atrocities, the party has neither acknowledged them nor committed itself to change its ways in future.

The rise and fall of the MQM notwithstanding, there is no denying the fact that Mohajir ethnicity has been born.

The Mohajir community continues to be involved in the problems of identity and a suitable form of its expression. While the MQM's fate hangs in balance at the hands of the army, Mohajirs in general are still not fully alienated from the latter. In fact, many welcomed its intervention in the civic life of urban Sindh.

The question is what lies ahead for the community as a reasonable option, given the particular mode of Mohajir psyche. An important part of this psyche is nostalgia for the area of origin in India. It is rooted not only in a loss of history for individuals but also a continuing feeling of tension caused by the phenomenon of divided families. Similarly, permanent estrangement from the cultural context of specific areas of origin spread over UP, Bihar, Bombay, Hyderabad, Madras and other areas of India has produced a mind-set which is amenable to feelings of gross alienation from the immediate social environment.

There is a direct way from alienation to deification of authority. Mohajirs developed an attitude to politics which, for the want of a better word, can be called governmentism. Mohajirs tended to depend on various government institutions to deliver goods to them, largely at the expense of social integration at the local level. Under Zia, various activist Mohajir elements allegedly responded to the offers of the military regime to play the ethnic card to counter what was perceived to be the ethnic base of the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] among Sindhis. From that point onwards, the MQM was able to accumulate weapons and spread its terror in urban Sindh with relative impunity.

There was ample space within the state system of Pakistan to accommodate the Mohajir-based ethnic politics as long as it fitted in the former's scheme of things. However, tolerating the MQM's relatively unrestrained functioning and posturing of Mohajir identity, sometimes to the grave embarrassment of the relevant state institutions, was a different matter altogether. Mohajir politics continues to suffer from a gross lack of positive approach to representative politics and an acute dependence on power politics.

Mohajir politics at present is caught up in a severe dilemma; there is the inherently parochial structure or its organisational expression and mass base on the one hand and lack of a conceivable role at the provincial and national levels in the framework of constitutional politics on the other. As a minority party, the MQM is doomed to play the role of a spoiler as long as it does not grow out of the ethnic mould of its politics and integrate with the mainstream public activity in a meaningful way.

How far has the Mohajir community gone into ethnic politics? To what extent, the articulate sections of the Mohajir community are ready to move away from the ethnic basis of public activity? It can be argued that, underneath the thick layers of ethnic politics, the transfer of resources across regions and sectors on the one hand and across class lines on the other has continued unabated. In Sindh, like elsewhere in Pakistan

and abroad, vertical lines of division in the body politics perforce led to a model of combative politics pushing the progressive politics of issues and policies back into history.

Government's Anti-Sectarian Bill Praised

93AS0529G Lahore *THE NATION in English*
16 Jan 93 p 6

[Editorial: "Sectarianism"]

[Text] The government has introduced a bill in the National Assembly to remove the evil of sectarianism from the society. Under the provisions of the bill, anyone found involved in sectarian activities would be liable to imprisonment up to five years and/or a fine the amount of which is to be specified later. It will be reviewed by the relevant Standing Committee of the Assembly and then presented before the House for discussion. The bill indeed is a serious and much-needed piece of legislation on the part of the government to curb the activities of various sectarian organisations that have come to thrive on the culture of intolerance, hatred and violence. Acting out of ignorance or, in some cases, simply out of selfish motives, the leaders of these sectarian organisations have spread so much bigotry in this country that certain areas have become constant flash points of trouble, ready

to explode at the slightest provocation. Every so often innocent people are killed, their properties destroyed and their religious freedom threatened—all in the name of Islam that places a special emphasis on tolerance and peace. Even the proponents of sectarian creeds are not safe from the fires of hatred they themselves stoke against their opponents. The recent past has particularly been conducive to the spread of sectarian hatred. Many religious leaders have already been murdered and a constant threat of violence continues to hang over the heads of others.

Such intolerance in our society in the name of the religion that betokens peace must be brought to an end. The anti-sectarian bill is a first step in that direction. Yet it is obvious that legislation alone will not be enough. The government must show the will and determination to crack down hard on such elements. Narrow selfish political interests should not be allowed to stand in the way. Other civilised nations of today have had to grapple with this kind of sectarian problem and ultimately it was the state which finally played a decisive role in checking such senseless violence through legislation and administratively stern action. Now that our government is also turning to this remedy, there is reason to hope for better sense to prevail among the misguided people.

Islamic Council Recommendations Attacked

93AS0529C Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English
23 Jan 93 p 6

[Editorial: "CII (Council of Islamic Ideology) Is Making a Joke of Itself and Pakistan"; italicized words, quotation marks as published]

[Text] Nearly all aspects and attributes of modern civilised life have been declared sinful by the Council of Islamic Ideology [CII]. The ease and abandon with which this Council goes on delivering itself of unintelligent and arbitrary verdicts on life as it is today, and as it is going to be in future, only confirms that it is totally oblivious of and irrelevant to reality. The gentlemen who compose this oddity might as well be living on Mars or some even more remote God forsaken nook of this limitless cosmos. There hasn't been a finding produced by the CII which would stand the test of commonsense by a long shot. For them to produce anything by way of guidance based on knowledge of any rational system, science, discipline—not to speak of Islam—is beginning now to look like a congenital and hence incorrigible disability. If all their opinions made available quite gratuitously so far are added up, what you have is an extraordinary heap of inane plethora of confusion of thought and values.

One by one, they are suggesting the removal of all traces of reason, compassion, grace and beauty from human existence. The CII wisdom is at war with thought, inquiry, refinement and human tolerance, kindness, sacrifice. The worst victim of CII diktats is human intellects. We are supposed to shun fresh thought, particularly elevated thought, as sin. Thou shalt not think is the sum total of all that CII wisecracks have unloaded themselves of upon this nation. The second worst victim is the very existence of woman. They look upon her as something totally useless and also untouchable—neither to be seen nor heard except behind the seven thick veils of the pious man's harem. And there, in that secrecy, there may be any number, of course up to four at any given moment. Women are excluded from all constructive, creative (except purely biological), artistic, intellectual use of their gifts and talent. Thanks to the values promoted by CII we have the laughable spectacle of at least one woman preacher on our TV who inflicts her harangues from behind the privacy of her *burqa*. Is it possible to conceive of anything more ridiculous?

The CII, if left to manage the country's economy, will bring all activity not only to a grinding halt but utter ruin. No modern universally accepted norms of commercial activity are acceptable to CII: taxes, insurance, profit (mark-up, interest), sureties and guarantees, collaterals... you name it... are forbidden. The CII must also meddle with the people's reading of books, watching of cinema and films on television; dance and song is declared sinful (except when males are the objects of viewers' entertainment!). Some people of the same ilk as the CII saints have been objected to bowlers' action in the game of cricket. If you think that's CII's double ton, you are

mistaken. This college of cardinals is capable of opinions infinitely more ludicrous. Among the 'reasons' why family planning is outside the purview of Islam you have is the risk of *women going bald*. In the same judgement, the ultimate wisdom of the CII imports a quotation from Bertrand Russell. Now, this is really very hard to swallow. Any sparrow, with a nodding acquaintance with Bertrand Russell would be greatly more sensible than the CII has been at its best.

Now that the CII has ruled almost everything as contrary to Islam, what remains? As far as we can see, only Pakistan remains. Those who believe the Islamisers *a la* CII have not done it already are ignorant of the history of the Pakistan movement and the character assassination of the Founder of this country by this class of fake clergymen. First, these Islamisers opposed the very idea of Pakistan as wholly un-Islamic. Then, they proceeded to unleash an avalanche of fatwas against Pakistan. There was not a bad word in their lexicon which they did not hurl at Muhammad Ali Jinnah, his thinking, his politics, even his wife and lifestyle. This class had the audacity to declare the war of independence in Kashmir, an unholy war and also that anyone dying in action was destined to go straight to the fire of hell.

With these credentials, what business has this class to pontificate to the people of Pakistan about what's right for them, what's not. The CII is the progeny of this class. It has been acting as the sword arm of those who were once sworn enemies of the very idea of Pakistan. And now, they are striking at the very roots of a progressive and just order in Pakistan. The madness cannot be without method. The objective is to pull this country apart, ridicule it in the eyes of the whole world, and leave it without a chance of survival. If there is any organisation which calls for instant disbandment it is this CII. The ruling party should take instant steps to do the needful in this regard even if it needs change in the Constitution. This kind of pretending and parading in the name of Islam is now becoming intolerable—and very dangerous too.

Islamic Council Calls for Curb on Reading Material

93AS0529B Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English
18 Jan 93 p 12

[Article by Mohammad Yasin: "CII (Council of Islamic Ideology) Recommends Curbs on Reading Material"]

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 17: If the report of the Council of Islamic Ideology [CII] on Publicity Media were to be implemented in toto, citizens would be totally starved of reading material of their own choice, particularly the one relating to entertainment.

The report containing recommendations of the CII from the period 1962 to 1992 was laid before the National Assembly on the last day of the 15th session of the National Assembly. The report contains 39 recommendations adopted by the CII between 1964 to 1991.

During the period under review, the Chairmen of the CII were: Justice Abu Saleh Mohammad Akram, Allama Alauddin Siddiqui, Justice Hamoodur Rehman, Justice Mohammad Afzal Cheema, Justice Dr. Tanzilur-Rehman, Prof. Dr. Abdul Wahid Halepota and Justice Mohammad Haleem.

The CII is greatly concerned over the display of obscenity which according to the report, was and is widely spreading in Pakistan through films, literature and entertaining programmes of hotels and night clubs etc, and are destroying the moral conduct of younger generation. The Advisory Council of the CII has noted that this tendency towards obscenity destroys the characteristic features of the Islamic way of life. It says that for an ideological state like Pakistan, it is extremely necessary that such films which are against the religious susceptibilities of the followers of any religion and sect; offend against the security of state, exhibit moral degradation and are pornographic, should not be allowed to be exhibited or displayed.

Shari'ah Committee Issues Recommendations

93AS0527B Lahore NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 17 Jan 93
p 8

[Text] Islamabad (NNI): Nifaz-i-Shari'ah [promulgation of religious laws] Working Group's subsidiary committee, chaired by retired Justice Gul Mohammad, former chief justice of the federal Shari'ah court, has issued its recommendations for legal and administrative reforms in the country. The committee recommends that the manufacture, export, and use of dish antennas be made a punishable crime and that strict laws be passed to

end the pornographic film business. These recommendations will be given final shape in the meeting of the Nifaz-i-Shari'ah Working Group and presented to the prime minister so that a bill may be brought before Parliament. In its recommendations regarding the media, the committee said that, in order to protect a person's honor and good name, the laws governing libel should be based on Islamic Fiqh [jurisprudence] and that laws should be passed to make the broadcast of false news on radio and television and in newspapers and periodicals a punishable crime. The committee also recommended that such newspapers and periodicals that publish literature against Islam or sensational pictures should be denied government advertisements. In regard to the reform of jails, the committee recommended that the wives of married prisoners be allowed to spend a few days each month with their husbands in jail so that matrimonial duties could be fulfilled, and that in this connection, family quarters should be constructed in jails. With respect to social reform, the committee said in its recommendations that women should be restricted from leaving their houses without the purdah [covering] required under religious law and that the employment of women in offices should be discouraged and gradually ended altogether. Also, music and dancing should be forbidden at government parties, and the exceptions allowed in the law concerning alcoholic beverages should be immediately ended; the tours of foreign artists and cultural groups, which are contrary to Islamic values and culture should be discouraged; and dancing, music, and sculpture should be banned from art instruction. The committee recommended that coeducation be banned at once and suggested it be restricted after the primary level.

Article Discusses Drop In Foreign Exchange Reserves*BK2001141993 Islamabad THE NATION in English
20 Jan 93 pp 1,4*

[By Mahmood Awan; quotation marks as published]

[Text] Lahore—Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves dropped to 820 million dollars by the third week of January, from over 1 billion dollars six months ago.

While the current foreign exchange reserves position appears quite weak when seen in light of the fact that Pakistani banks owe more than this balance to their foreign currency account holders, the government officials are satisfied that these deposits have reduced dependence on high-interest syndicated loans.

A huge mass of foreign currencies floating in the Pakistan market is also a source of consolation for the government which, officials believe, can be bought from the open market to strengthen the reserves position at any time.

Foreign currency deposits with the banks are currently estimated at around 860 million dollars.

These deposits have also dropped from the \$1 billion figure at the end of the last fiscal year to the current level of about 860 million dollars. Foreign exchange dealers term this amount 'peanuts' when compared to the amount of foreign currency available in open market.

The Latest figures compiled by the State Bank of Pakistan [SBP] show that country's foreign exchange balance is sliding at a tremendous pace down by another 30 million dollars as compared to the US \$850 million figure at the end of the first half of the current fiscal on December 31 [sentence as published].

This figure, Karachi-based SBP sources say, includes over half a billion dollars secured by the government of Pakistan in commercial loans. These high interest commercial loans are almost double the US \$440 million figure for the end of fiscal year 1991-2 on June 30, 1992.

However, banking sources say that government of Pakistan has nothing to panic about. They say that dollar's rise against rupee is giving enough strength to the foreign exchange reserve position since more and more dollars are coming into the country.

A luctative interest rate on foreign currency accounts is further encouraging foreign exchange inflow, they say.

Editorial Notes Bad News on National Economy*BK2801091393 Islamabad THE NEWS in English
28 Jan 93 p 7*

[Editorial: "Bitter economic truths"]

[Text] The finance minister, Sartaj Aziz, is habitually prone to painting a rosy picture of the economy. But for

a change he has chosen to dwell on the economy's bitter truths. While addressing an elite group at the annual dinner of the Civil Services Academy, the minister conceded that the country's finances are in bad shape. Of the Rs [Rupees] 140 billion generated domestically as revenue, Rs 93 billion are consumed in debt servicing while Rs 82 billion are devoured by defence spending. All other national requirements are met by heavy borrowing. The budgetary deficit is mounting. Taxes are not being collected satisfactorily. The social sectors are getting a raw deal. Whereas the population is growing at an alarming rate, the literacy rate remains very low. Besides, the finance minister also accepted the fact that given its financial resources, Pakistan could ill-afford a bloated bureaucracy. Where do we go from here? Can this dismal scenario be changed? The finance minister, after having made some plain confessions about the state of the economy, returned to his ever-optimistic mood. In the second part of his speech, he expressed the hope that the nation need not worry as it will live happily ever after once the government had set everything right. But few will share the finance minister's optimism about a better tomorrow if for no other reason than what he himself said in his speech.

For example, there is no sign that our huge expenditure on the civil and military establishment will be cut down to viable levels. And though Mr. Aziz mentions 7 to 8 percent trimming of the bureaucracy during the last two years, budgetary allocations indicate otherwise. Privatisation of some units in the public sector may have reduced some extra bureaucratic fat, but the bulk of bureaucratic structure continues to be maintained at an abnormally high cost. Similarly, the claim that old priorities set by the decision-making process of a narrow civil and military elite are being re-ordered, fly in the face of realities. Last but not least, the benefits of economic reforms now underway are also confined to a small number of people in business and industry.

The finance minister is right in saying that the changing global and regional environment is not to the advantage of Pakistan. We cannot go on depending on generous flows of concessional assistance, as in the past. Precisely for this reason, the extraordinary challenge of grim economic realities demands a well-thought out response. Only a new socio-economic strategy based on maximum mobilisation of indigenous resources, drastic curbs on ostentatious consumption and socially just allocation of resources and re-arrangement of priorities can help solve the present crisis of the economy.

Editorial Views Rise in Imports, Falling Rupee Value*BK0802141793 Islamabad THE NATION in English
8 Feb 93 p 6*

[Editorial: "Import Rise"]

[Text] During the first four months of fiscal year 1992-93, imports into Pakistan rose by 2.8 percentage points.

However, this increase is in dollar terms. In rupee terms, the rise in imports for the July-October period is being [passage indistinct] dollar and rupee imports is indicative of the problems that the Pakistani economy faced due directly to the eroding of the Pak rupee, both in the domestic and in the international market it is, therefore, to be hoped that the Federal government would take cognizance of the falling rupee value and undertake policy reforms to arrest its decline. This decline in our currency can be attributed to macro policies of the Federal Finance Ministry for fiscal year 1992-93. An unprecedented rise in the budget deficit, a lowering of the revenue base, due to withdrawal of new taxes imposed in the budget 1992-93 and a tendency to increase expenditure, are all factors that have contributed to a decline in the rupee value. Floods last year added to the burden of the already large resource constraints being experienced by the government. Hence it is to be hoped that the budget for the forthcoming fiscal year would take account of all these negative factors and attempts to rectify the existing imbalance between resources and expenditure.

Externally the rupee lost its value due to the increase in imports which could not be matched by an increase in exports. This too was due to a deliberate policy of the government to promote imports of machinery which also led to a worsening trade balance. A deteriorating rupee, not followed by an increase in exports and a decline in imports, is causing serious damage to the performance of other major economic indicators in Pakistan and thus requires immediate attention.

Import, Export Gap Said Tightening

93AS0529D Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES
in English 21 Jan 93 p 10

[Article by Mohammad Ilyas: "Exports, Imports Gap Narrows by 17 Percent"]

[Text] Islamabad, Jan. 20: Difference between exports and imports of Pakistan narrowed by an impressive 17 percent during the first half of the current financial year.

A glance at the advance release on external trade statistics by the Federal Bureau of Statistics shows that the welcome development was due to the 10.8 percent improvement in exports in dollar terms and 14.4 percent in rupee terms.

During July-December 1992, value of exports was equivalent to \$3372 million as against 3021 during the corresponding period of 1991. This left a gap of \$1249 million as compared to \$1508 million at the end of December 1991.

The comparative figures for imports during the same period are \$4621 million and 4529 million, respectively. This shows an increase of two percent.

During December 1992, exports and imports amounted to \$692 million and 798 million, compared to 630 million and \$855 million respectively.

When compared to the external trade statistics for November 1992, exports show an increase of 21.8 percent, while imports fell by 4.4 percent.

Machinery, excluding transport equipment was on top of the imports list at \$1164 million during first half of 1992-93, \$65 million less than during July-December, 1991.

It was followed by chemicals (\$727 million), petroleum products (\$388.108 million), crude products (\$449.516 million) crude \$277 million, edible oil (\$276.36 million) milk and cream including milk food for infants (8.9 million), etc.

According to the statistics, Pakistan imported 1.41 million tons of wheat, nearly six lakh tons more than during first half of 1991-92. The import bill for wheat during the two periods was \$224.7 million and 128 million, respectively.

Over 72,000 tons of sugar was also imported at a cost of \$20 million. Import of sugar this year was double that during the corresponding period of 1991-92.

The import of soybean oil more than doubled to 1.49 lakh tons at a cost of £67.432 million, indicating a drop in unit value. This was perhaps a reflection of subsidisation of farm products by the United States—the main source of this commodity.

As usual, raw cotton, cotton yarn and cotton products, by fetching over \$1049 million accounted for 31.1 percent of total exports—showing 10 percent improvement over July-December 1991. Rice export showed a sharp decrease in volume from 702,509 metric tons to 529,218 metric tons and in value from 189.263 million to \$162.165 million. The most notable increase is shown in synthetic textile fabrics (from \$197.037 to 249.196 million) and leather manufactures (from \$166.456 million to 198.593 million).

Private Sector Role in Defense Production Applauded

93AS0529E Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES
in English 18 Jan 93 p 6

[Editorial: "Private Sector in Defence Production"]

[Text] Inaugurating a two-day seminar in Lahore on the role of the private sector in defence production, Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif said that a strong Pakistan would help de-escalate tension in this region and create a peaceful atmosphere for undertaking development work in the country at a faster pace. He asked the Federal Finance Minister to seriously consider a proposal to provide 90 to 95 percent amount as loan on five to ten percent equity to any party intending to set up a defence-related industrial unit. He said there was wide

scope for the involvement of the private sector in defence production and suggested that the Minister for Defence Production and the Finance Minister should sit together with defence experts to work out a package of incentives for the private sector which should also include a compensation formula in case such a unit in the private sector suffered a loss. He observed that research conducted in a defence-related industry could also be useful for other industries. He said he was keen to see collaboration between the Ministry of Defence Production and the private sector for creating a broad industrial base to strengthen national defence. Later, addressing the seminar, Federal Minister for Finance Sartaj Aziz announced a package of incentives including exemption from payment of Sales Tax and Customs Duty on import of raw material for setting up defence industrial units.

Defence and economic development are two faces of the same coin, with one supporting the other. Defence makes economic development secure while development ensures a strong defence. No country can maintain its army on borrowed weapons. Pakistan cannot be self-confident and self-reliant without being self-sufficient in defence production. Further, imported technology has lately taken the form of neo-imperialism and often has political strings attached to it. This impinges on a country's sovereignty. Pakistan has been trying over the decades to build an indigenous industrial base to strengthen its defence capability. There is, therefore, an urgent need for close collaboration between the government industrial units in the defence field and the private sector. The involvement of private entrepreneurs in this key sector will go a long way in ensuring the country's self-sufficiency in defence production. In such a joint undertaking the emphasis should clearly be on the establishment of research-oriented units so that technology requiring only the locally available raw material could also be developed. In the long run these measures would definitely wean Pakistan away from dependence on foreign arms and technology.

Domestic Budget Seen Tied to Foreign Aid

93AS0529H Lahore *THE NATION* in English
18 Jan 93 p 11

[Article by Mahamood Awan: "Environmental Budget To Be Halved if Aid Stopped: Sartaj"; quotation marks as published]

[Text] Islamabad—Federal Finance Minister Sartaj Aziz indicated Sunday Pakistan will have to halve its expenditure on environment if international donors do not assist the country.

Aziz told one-day National Conservation Strategy Donor Conference here the government would have no option but to spread its \$750 million (over Rs 19 billion) proposed investment outlay for environmental conservation earmarked for the next five years to a decade due to resource constraints.

The Finance Minister asked international donor agencies to come up with flexible approach and pre-investment studies on assisting the national conservation strategy (NCS) instead of the 'blue-print approach.' He said Pakistan could not implement the plan on its own.

He said Pakistan was investing over 30 million dollars a year on environmental conservation, which it planned to enhance to \$150 million under the NCS.

Federal Environment Minister Anwar Saifullah Khan said the government was working on a ten year action plan for national conservation. This plan, he said, would be implemented by the government with active collaboration of NGOs [Nongovernmental Organization].

Saifullah said the proposed investment outlay of Rs 19.276 billion did not include major environment related measures such as SCARP [Salinity Control and Reclamation Project] water management and on farm water management programme.

In addition to the individual projects, he said, the government intended to establish an NGO fund to provide small grants to nongovernmental organisations.

The Minister said immediate action would be needed in the areas of institutional strengthening, mass awareness and regulatory legislation and economic incentives.

The government plans to invest more than one-third of the total investment of over Rs 19 billion to prevent and combat pollution and for managing urban wastes. Most of the remaining amount has been earmarked for projects of the provincial government, of federal agencies, of AJK [Azad Jammu and Kashmir], northern areas and FATA [Federally Administered Tribal Areas]. NGOs will get 2.6 percent of the fund.

"The NCS has made us aware of the fact that environmental conservation as well as economic development is best achieved through a systematic and sustained partnership between all groups, organisations and individuals in the country both within and outside the government," he said.

Saifullah said the implementation committees decision to initiate immediate action on environmental regulation and economic incentives could be seen as the basis on which the partnership between the government and business would be built.

The NCS Donor Conference was attended by representatives of international donor agencies and donor countries. Senator Sartaj Aziz chaired this conference.

He further suggested the donor agencies have option to formulate annual plans by providing one year grant for certain projects and then monitor this project and after having the positive results from it release funds for the next year.

Sartaj Aziz felt that international donor agencies have enough time to have pre-investment studies as the implementation of NCS projects will start in the forthcoming fiscal year.

He observed that the assistance of international donor agencies could assist the implementation of NCS through transferring new research in environment sector green technology and by launching the research and training programmes for different groups in Pakistan concerned with environment sector.

He highlighted the role of non-governmental organisations and women involvement in protecting environment.

He asked the donor agencies to extend support of the development of institutions meant for monitoring the projects and for the public awareness programmes about protecting environment.

He announced seminar and conference will be organised after the implementation of NCS.

Army Chief Vows To Steer Clear of Politics

BK2901100993 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST
in English 29 Jan 93 p 8

[Quotation marks as published]

[Text] Quetta (AFP)—General Abdol Waheed, Chief of the Army Staff [COAS] has said that Pakistan army has nothing to do with politics and shall work according to the role assigned to it under the Constitution.

He was addressing a darbar [assembly] of officers and jawans [soldiers] at Zhob Garrison, on Thursday. Gen. Waheed said, "we do not have any political affiliations nor do we foster any such ambitions."

He said no one was above law and Pakistan Army like any other institution of the country was subservient to the Constitution. The COAS said: We understand that the nation attaches great expectations with us, as it is sacrificing the major part of her hard earned money for defence purpose."

He urged upon the officers and jawans to devote maximum time to training programmes in order to attain excellence.

Expressing his grief and sorrow over the demise of late General Asif Nawaz, he said he was a great soldier and vowed to promote the glorious traditions set by the late general.

Satellite Launch Scheduled for 1994

93AS0527A Karachi JANG in Urdu 9 Jan 93 p 1

[News Report: "Sikander Zaman: 'Pakistan's Second Satellite Will Be Launched Next Year; Laboratory Tests Have Been Completed; SPARKO Will Establish an Aerospace Institute'"]

[Text] Karachi (APP): Mr. Sikander Zaman, chairman of SPARKO [expansion not given], said that laboratory tests of the laboratory model of Pakistan's second satellite had been completed and the satellite would be launched at the start of 1994. Addressing a radio news conference, Sikander Zaman said that this second satellite would be different from the first one; it would be equipped with a system which would allow the ground command to change the satellite's direction. He said that it is being considered whether to equip the satellite with a camera which would take pictures of the earth. He added that after the completion of the laboratory model, an engineering model followed by a flight model would be prepared. He said that the satellite was designed by SPARKO scientists without outside help. He said that rocket manufacturing was SPARKO's primary objective in order to enable Pakistan to launch its own satellites. He said that SPARKO would establish an aerospace institute, which would be completed by the end of 1993. He added that PIA [Pakistan Airlines] had been advised to equip its planes with distress signaling devices, which would allow the planes to be directly located in case of accident or emergency.

Human Rights Situation Seen Worsening

93AS0529A Islamabad *THE MUSLIM in English*
16 Jan 93 p 6

[Editorial: "Human Rights Situation Worsens"]

[Text] In its interim report of the year 1992, the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) has said that the year under review saw more violations of fundamental rights than previous years. "The civil and political rights of the individual came under greater pressure and encouragement of fundamentalism by acts of commission and omission appeared even more menacing to any progress of women's rights," noted Ms. Asma Jehangir, Secretary General of the HRCP. As for the government and the opposition, she said the two had done little to strengthen democratic institutions and traditions and to enhance the citizens' rights of participation. The report lamented that the death penalty had been revived after some years in hibernation.

The report consisting of 35 pages covers activities of the judiciary, Parliament, police and the press and noted violations of fundamental rights of women, children, minorities, labourers and political workers. Special mention has been made of the judiciary pointing out that it had still to be separated from the executive while a considerable number of appointments to it were politically motivated. The report mentioned in strong terms that rape was now a common occurrence and in the Punjab alone a rape a day had been recorded. Eighty per

cent of the women languishing in jails, the report added, were charged under the Haddood Ordinance. Reading between the lines, this means that such women have the cards stacked against them from the word 'go' and do not stand the chance of a snowball in hell of being acquitted.

To begin with, it is extremely gratifying that an institution like the HRCP exists in the country. It is, today the only body which collects data on human rights violations and presents in the form of a report. The report under reference undoubtedly took great time and effort but cannot possibly be expected to be as exhaustive as it should be because of the resource constraints of the HRCP. What the report has probably uncovered is the tip of the iceberg. Human rights today are the foremost concern among the democratic Western powers. In Pakistan and the rest of the Third World countries, the dignity of man is the easiest of things to play with. All human beings are equal and it cannot be said even in jest that some are more equal than others. It is, therefore, incumbent on all people everywhere to raise their voice against human rights violations wherever they see them, in whatever form they occur. Every living thing has fundamental rights, even animals of the lower order. Wherever they exist, these life forms are entitled to fullest protection by the government. The fight for the protection of human rights must continue and for this purpose, it is the duty of every citizen to contribute to the efforts of the HRCP and its sister organisations, in any form possible.

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